

BEFORE THE
ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF:

ROY HOLLIS

V

No. 15-0609

PEOPLES GAS LIGHT AND COKE

COMPANY

Complaint as to a broken meter
in Chicago, Illinois.

Chicago, Illinois

April 13, 2016

Met pursuant to notice at 10:00 a.m.

BEFORE :

MR. JOHN RILEY, Administrative Law Judge.

APPEARANCES:

MR. ROY HOLLIS

7834 South Champlain Avenue

Chicago, Illinois 60619

appeared pro se, telephonically;

MR. KOBY A. BAILEY

200 East Randolph Street,

Suite 2300

Chicago, Illinois 60601

appeared for Respondent.

SULLIVAN REPORTING COMPANY, by

Teresann B. Giorgi, CSR

084-000977

1		<u>I</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>X</u>		
2							Re-	Re-
3	<u>Witnesses:</u>	<u>Dir.</u>	<u>Crx.</u>	<u>dir.</u>	<u>crx.</u>		<u>By</u>	
4	NONE						<u>Examiner</u>	
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9		<u>E</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>T</u>
10	<u>APPLICANT'S</u>	<u>FOR</u>	<u>IDENTIFICATION</u>				<u>IN</u>	<u>EVIDENCE</u>
11	NONE							
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1 JUDGE RILEY: Pursuant to the direction of
2 the Illinois Commerce Commission, I call
3 Docket 15-0609.

4 This is a complaint by Roy Hollis
5 versus Peoples Gas Light and Coke Company as to a
6 broken meter in Chicago, Illinois.

7 And, Mr. Hollis, you are proceeding
8 again without counsel at this time, is that correct?

9 MR. HOLLIS: Correct.

10 JUDGE RILEY: And your address is -- the service
11 address you're complaining about is 9254 South
12 Vanderpoel in Chicago?

13 MR. HOLLIS: That's correct.

14 JUDGE RILEY: That's correct. Okay.

15 And, Mr. Bailey, for Peoples Gas.

16 MR. BAILEY: Koby Bailey on behalf of the
17 Peoples Gas Light and Coke Company, 200 East
18 Randolph, Suite 2300, Chicago, Illinois 60601,
19 telephone number (312) 240-4081.

20 JUDGE RILEY: And let the record reflect that
21 joining us also from Peoples Gas is Mr. Hendrixson.

22 JUDGE RILEY: When we met back on January 20,

1 Mr. Hollis, it was my understanding that there had
2 been some significant progress toward settlement in
3 this matter, but you were also going to try to
4 obtain some records from CEDA, is that correct?

5 MR. HOLLIS: Yes, sir.

6 JUDGE RILEY: I'm sorry, you have to speak up
7 for the court reporter.

8 MR. HOLLIS: Yes.

9 JUDGE RILEY: Have you been able to obtain
10 anything from CEDA?

11 MR. HOLLIS: (Inaudible.)

12 JUDGE RILEY: Hold it. The court reporter is
13 not getting it. Turn up the volume. Try it again.

14 MR. HOLLIS: I have to get a medical leave from
15 my job first.

16 JUDGE RILEY: Okay.

17 MR. HOLLIS: And I have not been able to do
18 that.

19 JUDGE RILEY: All right. I'm not sure how that
20 figures in. How does that figure into your
21 complaint or how does that figure into you obtaining
22 the information you need from CEDA?

1 MR. HOLLIS: Because my income is too high for
2 CEDA right now.

3 JUDGE RILEY: But didn't you have CEDA's grants
4 before?

5 MR. HOLLIS: Yeah, but I didn't have a job at
6 the time.

7 JUDGE RILEY: What information was it that you
8 were going to obtain from CEDA?

9 MR. HOLLIS: Well, I was going to try to get
10 CEDA but my income is too high.

11 JUDGE RILEY: I see. Okay.

12 Mr. Bailey, what is Peoples Gas' take
13 on this now?

14 MR. BAILEY: Well -- I mean, we still leave
15 open -- you know, we can establish that tampering
16 occurred at the residence with this meter. The
17 outstanding amount is \$5,243.78.

18 We had proposed a payment plan. We
19 still leave open the idea of a payment plan. But
20 that is our offer right now.

21 MR. HOLLIS: I would just like to get some more
22 time in order to see if I could continue to try to

1 get CEDA.

2 JUDGE RILEY: Well, how does that bear on your
3 complaint? That's what I don't understand.

4 MR. HOLLIS: It would help me pay the bill.

5 JUDGE RILEY: So, are you out of work now?

6 MR. HOLLIS: No.

7 JUDGE RILEY: So, you are working now. Okay.

8 MR. HOLLIS: I'm trying to take a leave instead
9 of quitting my job.

10 JUDGE RILEY: Well, I'm not sure where we go
11 from here.

12 MR. HOLLIS: I would just request that -- I
13 would like to request more time.

14 JUDGE RILEY: What do you hope to accomplish
15 with more time? That's what I'm not clear on. Is
16 it you are going to be able to obtain a CEDA grant
17 or --

18 MR. HOLLIS: Correct.

19 JUDGE RILEY: And have you applied and have they
20 said -- well, have you applied, first of all?

21 MR. HOLLIS: Yeah, I went up there and I spoke
22 to them and they said that right now I would not

1 qualify.

2 JUDGE RILEY: Because you are employed.

3 MR. HOLLIS: Correct.

4 JUDGE RILEY: So, you're planning on taking a
5 leave of absence from your job to obtain CEDA?

6 MR. HOLLIS: Correct.

7 JUDGE RILEY: And will CEDA solve the
8 outstanding balance?

9 MR. HOLLIS: Correct.

10 MR. BAILEY: A CEDA grant would, at least,
11 reduce the outstanding balance.

12 JUDGE RILEY: I see.

13 MR. BAILEY: I don't know if it would be the
14 entire 5,000, but. . .

15 JUDGE RILEY: So, what is your plan, Mr. Hollis,
16 that you're going to -- are you going to obtain a
17 leave of absence from your job?

18 MR. HOLLIS: Correct.

19 JUDGE RILEY: Is that imminent? I mean, I'm
20 talking in terms of time now.

21 MR. HOLLIS: Well, that's what I'm trying to --
22 you know, I just need more time.

1 JUDGE RILEY: Well, we don't have a deadline in
2 this matter until November.

3 MR. BAILEY: The Company is willing to provide
4 Mr. Hollis more time.

5 JUDGE RILEY: What I'm thinking is that if he
6 can obtain a CEDA grant that may make a payment plan
7 more palatable to --

8 MR. BAILEY: Right.

9 JUDGE RILEY: -- may make it easier for him to
10 participate in such a plan.

11 MR. HENDRIXSON: We can set up the payment plan
12 and if he does get a LIHEAP grant, we can just
13 renegotiate the new payment arrangements based on
14 that.

15 JUDGE RILEY: I would be in favor of that.

16 Mr. Hollis, do you understand that?

17 MR. HOLLIS: What's that?

18 JUDGE RILEY: That if you were able to get a
19 CEDA or a LIHEAP grant then you and Peoples Gas
20 could negotiate probably a much more manageable
21 payment plan.

22 MR. HOLLIS: That's the (inaudible) --

1 JUDGE RILEY: You're not coming through again.

2 MR. HOLLIS: That is the plan. That's what I
3 want to do. I want to try get -- do my best -- I
4 mean, are you suggesting that I start paying on the
5 balance?

6 JUDGE RILEY: No. No. There hasn't been any
7 agreement for the payment plan yet.

8 What we're saying is if you do take
9 the leave of absence from your job and you're able
10 to obtain a CEDA grant, that would pay off at lease
11 a portion of the outstanding bill and the rest of it
12 would be more manageable through a payment plan.

13 MR. HOLLIS: Right.

14 MR. BAILEY: Right.

15 MR. HOLLIS: I do have a question on the \$5,000.

16 Was any of my payment ever considered?

17 JUDGE RILEY: You say that you have made
18 payments on the \$5,000 balance?

19 MR. HOLLIS: No. I was up-to-date -- they were
20 charging me --

21 MR. BAILEY: Oh, I understand. Yeah.

22 The meter was not registering due to

1 the outstanding tampering. So, every month
2 Mr. Hollis received a bill with just the fixed
3 charges.

4 MR. HOLLIS: But that was paid. The fixed --

5 MR. BAILEY: Oh, yeah. The monthly customer
6 charge was paid.

7 MR. HOLLIS: Okay. That was included in the
8 5,000, so, my bill would have been a lot more than
9 that?

10 MR. BAILEY: Yeah, your bill over the last five
11 years would have been roughly a thousand dollars
12 additional per year, if we just divided it evenly
13 between the natural gas consumed and then the
14 variable distribution charges.

15 MR. HOLLIS: How are they coming to the 5,000,
16 an estimate or what I probably would have used?

17 MR. BAILEY: Yes, because the meter wasn't
18 registering necessarily, it has to be an estimate.

19 MR. HOLLIS: And how did they estimate that?

20 MR. BAILEY: The estimate is based on the
21 history of the gas usage at the premises.

22 MR. HOLLIS: Is that the history of me

1 living there? Because according to you I never
2 paid --

3 MR. BAILEY: No. No. You have paid. You have
4 paid the monthly customer charge.

5 MR. HOLLIS: Right. But I never had --

6 MR. BAILEY: So, we have to go back even farther
7 to get the estimate usage because the meter was
8 tampered with.

9 MR. HOLLIS: Okay. But what I'm saying is, so
10 you, basically, are going off what the lady before
11 me used.

12 MR. BAILEY: That is the only piece of date we
13 are going to have.

14 MR. HOLLIS: Right.

15 JUDGE RILEY: Mr. Hollis, how much time do you
16 think you're going to need to get the leave of
17 absence from your job and then obtain a CEDA grant
18 or, at least, apply for the CEDA grant?

19 MR. HOLLIS: It could take probably like three
20 to four months.

21 JUDGE RILEY: How much?

22 MR. HOLLIS: Three to four months.

1 MR. BAILEY: I mean, could we in an
2 alternatively -- I mean, because we proposed a
3 24 month payment arrangement for the \$5,243, which
4 off the top of my head that looks to be roughly \$200
5 a month, if I'm thinking -- subject to -- well, let
6 me -- I have a calculator on this phone, I can do it
7 that way -- which is roughly a payment \$218 a month,
8 is what we would propose to settle this. If you
9 later received a CEDA grant -- a grant, we could go
10 back and we could recalculate that amount.

11 JUDGE RILEY: You actually think it's going
12 to take three to four months for you to get a
13 leave of absence from your job and to get a CEDA
14 grant?

15 MR. HOLLIS: Yes.

16 JUDGE RILEY: We have a deadline on this matter
17 of November and that's going to take us to the end
18 of the summer.

19 MR. HOLLIS: (Inaudible.)

20 JUDGE RILEY: I'm so sorry. I don't know who's
21 speaking.

22 MR. HOLLIS: This is Roy Hollis.

1 (Inaudible.)

2 JUDGE RILEY: Mr. Hollis, your voice keeps
3 coming in and out. I don't know -- there's
4 something wrong with the connection.

5 MR. HOLLIS: I'm on a cell phone.

6 JUDGE RILEY: I understand that.

7 We need you go speak as distinctly and
8 clearly as possible.

9 MR. HOLLIS: Can we recalculate the CEDA -- not
10 the CEDA -- the payments for five years instead of
11 two?

12 MR. BAILEY: No, we don't go out that far.

13 JUDGE RILEY: I think Peoples Gas' policy is two
14 years is pretty much the extent.

15 MR. BAILEY: Yeah.

16 MR. HOLLIS: I mean, even though it was over
17 five years. Normally you guys don't let this thing
18 go on for two years, but the average is two years?
19 My case is kind of different than from what you guys
20 explained to me.

21 MR. BAILEY: And that's why instead of doing a
22 one year deferred payment arrangement -- or a

1 payment arrangement, that's why we're going up to 24
2 months.

3 MR. HOLLIS: Um-hum.

4 MR. BAILEY: With the option of not requiring it
5 all at one time.

6 So, that's why, you know, we're
7 proposing to go two years, to the extent if you got
8 a CEDA grant, we could recalculate the amount.

9 MR. HOLLIS: Because you're also requesting like
10 a 2- to \$3,000 down payment.

11 MR. BAILEY: No. No. We're just proposing -- I
12 mean, if you want to make a down payment, that would
13 be great.

14 MR. HOLLIS: No, that's almost the biggest
15 problem is the down payment.

16 MR. BAILEY: We can go up to 24.

17 MR. HENDRIXSON: We can do that, yeah.

18 MR. BAILEY: Mr. Hollis, we would propose a
19 24-month deferred payment arrangement, nothing down,
20 but we would want to get you set up on that plan in
21 the next 30 days and we would like to get this
22 matter dismissed.

1 JUDGE RILEY: Mr. Hollis, did you get that?

2 MR. HOLLIS: Yeah, I heard.

3 You know, I would still like to -- I
4 mean because -- at the end of the day, you know how
5 I'm thinking, if you say the meter was tampered
6 with, it was tampered with and those are my bills,
7 so, you know, I have to pay for it. I mean, you
8 don't get anything for free, so. . .

9 I guess settle a little bit with the
10 idea -- it's just a shock factor knowing that -- you
11 know, what's going on with this whole thing.

12 So, I mean, I would like for you guys
13 to, I guess, work with me a little bit more. You
14 know, it's five years that it's going on. I mean, I
15 just don't have, you know, all that money to just --
16 you know, I want to -- I pay all my bills. You
17 know, my credit score is very high. Never been in a
18 situation like this.

19 I don't know if you know I've got
20 another situation with Peoples Gas as well, on the
21 building that my father and I own.

22 MR. BAILEY: So, there's another tamper steal

1 with another building.

2 MR. HOLLIS: No, there's a purchase -- there's
3 another -- it's a property that my father and I
4 purchased and the furnace was taken -- I mean the
5 boiler was taken out and each unit got a furnace.
6 They came and took the boiler -- what is it called,
7 the boiler meter --

8 MR. BAILEY: Okay.

9 MR. HOLLIS: -- and now they're saying I'm
10 responsible for the -- you know, for having it --
11 you know, basically, I didn't report saying that I
12 got -- you know, I purchased the building. So,
13 they're trying to say that there was usage, but they
14 know it's no usage because I didn't even have
15 anything hooked up to it.

16 MR. BAILEY: Okay. Well, that's -- I don't have
17 any facts on that one. But --

18 MR. HOLLIS: Yeah.

19 MR. BAILEY: But as to this one, you know, the
20 Company will propose -- and this is -- we're not
21 requiring anything down, which is -- when we set up
22 a deferred payment arrangement, depending on income

1 level, it's a third down or a quarter down,
2 depending on income qualification.

3 But we are willing to go 24 months for
4 the balance. We would like to get this set up
5 within the next 30 days. If you get a CEDA grant at
6 a later time, of course, give us a call, we can get
7 that renegotiated.

8 I mean, right now, that is the
9 Company's offer.

10 MR. HOLLIS: Okay. Is there any way I could
11 still -- we can revisit this in three to four months
12 and I still try to get the CEDA grant?

13 JUDGE RILEY: What I'm more inclined to do,
14 Mr. Hollis, I don't want to continue it for that
15 length of time, what I would rather do is continue
16 it for a two-month period and --

17 MR. HOLLIS: Okay. That's fine.

18 JUDGE RILEY: -- revisit it then, which would
19 take us to just about the middle of June.

20 MR. BAILEY: Okay.

21 MR. HOLLIS: Okay.

22 JUDGE RILEY: And then I encourage you to work

1 with Peoples Gas and Peoples to work with you to see
2 if you can come to some kind of accord.

3 MR. BAILEY: Yeah.

4 MR. HOLLIS: Okay.

5 JUDGE RILEY: How about -- I'm going to throw
6 out June 16.

7 MR. HOLLIS: What day is that?

8 JUDGE RILEY: That's a Thursday.

9 MR. BAILEY: That works for the Company.

10 JUDGE RILEY: Is that okay with you, Mr. Hollis?
11 Hello? Are you still there,
12 Hollis?

13 MR. HOLLIS: June 16 is fine with me.

14 JUDGE RILEY: Okay. Great. That will be
15 10:00 a.m. again.

16 MR. HOLLIS: Okay.

17 JUDGE RILEY: And, again, I'll have the -- the
18 Office of our Chief Clerk will send you a formal
19 notice reminding you of the date so you can set
20 it aside and we'll reconvene then and see where we
21 are.

22 MR. HOLLIS: All right thank you.

1 JUDGE RILEY: Thank you very much.
2 MR. HOLLIS: You guys have a good day.
3 JUDGE RILEY: Take care.
4 MR. BAILEY: Thank you, Judge.
5 (Whereupon, the matter was
6 continued to June 16,
7 2016, at 10:00 a.m.)
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